

DR. ALLAN B. PEREL

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Allan B. Perel, a dedicated physician, leader in the MS community and a true humanitarian. He is one of Staten Island's "everyday heroes."

Dr. Perel was educated in New York City schools, attending Brooklyn College, and obtaining his medical degree from the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center. He completed his residency at Columbia University—Presbyterian Hospital and interned at Staten Island University Hospital.

Dr. Perel is a great physician, and he gives back to his community. His has gone above and beyond by providing unprecedented care to those affected by Multiple Sclerosis and other life altering conditions. He has served as the Director of the Multiple Sclerosis Center of Staten Island/ Chapter Site NYCMS Society for the past 15 years.

He is also the Chairman of the Board of the Staten Island Heart Society for the past 5 years and was the only Neurologist to have served as President of the American Heart Association. Dr. Perel also founded and served as the director of the Staten Island University Hospital—NYS Department of Health Certified Stroke Center.

Throughout his career, Dr. Perel provided educational materials to the community and supported legislation that benefitted both doctors and patients. He helps coordinate the Island-wide September 11 Memorial blood drive, and continuously supports charity walks for many causes.

Dr. Perel has been an active participant of the Richmond County Medical Society since 1989. In July of 2008, Dr. Perel was selected to be the organization's president. On Saturday, November 14th, the Richmond County Medical Society honored Dr. Allan Perel for his tireless dedication to his profession and the people of his community. I wish to join this organization in praising the accomplishments of one of Staten Island's finest physicians.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Dr. Allan B. Perel on his dedication to the citizens of Staten Island.

SUPPORTING S. 4073, THE RURAL
VETERANS REIMBURSEMENT ACT**HON. WALT MINNICK**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MINNICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the brave men and women of our Nation's armed forces. As a U.S. Army veteran, I understand how important it is that we keep our promises and thank them for their commitment to freedom.

I'm pleased to announce the introduction of the Rural Veterans Reimbursement Act. This bill enjoys bipartisan support and has been endorsed by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and the American Legion.

This legislation will allow rural veterans to receive reimbursement for their food and lodg-

ing any time they must travel to a VA medical facility to seek treatment for a service-connected injury. Many veterans living in backcountry Idaho and in other rural areas around the country must travel on narrow, winding roads for the better part of a day to reach the nearest Veterans Hospital or clinic. They deserve to be reimbursed for their travel expenses.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR
AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act because it eliminates the discriminatory insurance industry practice of charging women higher premium rates than male customers for the same insurance benefits. This practice, known as "gender rating," leaves women burdened by higher insurance costs. In fact, women are charged 25–50 percent more than men for comparable insurance benefits. For decades, insurance underwriters have tried to justify this disparity by asserting that women use more health care, especially during child-bearing years. This claim is contradicted by the reality that many women are denied insurance coverage for maternity care and even denied coverage based on a history of prior pregnancies. Further, female nonsmokers pay more for health insurance than men who smoke. In a recent study, more than half of women (compared to 39 percent of men) reported delaying needed medical care due to cost. Gender rating is prohibited in the individual market in 10 States (Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington). Two States have "rate bands" that allow 20 percent variation in charges (Vermont and New Mexico). Twelve States ban gender rating in the small group market, including my home State of Maryland (as well as California, Colorado, Minnesota, Michigan, Montana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, and Washington). H.R. 3962 ends the discriminatory practice of gender rating in all States and ensures that women and men are charged equitable prices for premiums.

As a life-long advocate of women's rights and a domestic violence prevention advocate, I support this ban on gender rating and support equal access to the insurance market for women.

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN EN-
ERGY (PACE) TAX BENEFITS ACT**HON. JOHN P. SARBANES**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Property Assessed Clean Energy, PACE, Tax Benefits Act. This legislation supports efforts by state and local

governments to help homeowners and businesses install energy efficiency upgrades.

PACE projects are an innovative way to finance energy efficiency investments like insulation and home sealing projects, energy efficient appliances or renewable energy generation systems. These programs provide homeowners or businesses the upfront capital to pay for the improvements and allow them to finance repayment through the property assessment taxes they pay to state or local government. Because PACE financing offers real savings immediately and in the long term, homeowners and business owners are much more likely to pursue energy efficiency improvements.

The legislation I am introducing will make it easier for state and local governments to raise capital for PACE programs by making the interest earned on PACE-related bonds tax free. For example, under current law, when government bodies issue bonds for the construction of roads, schools, or other infrastructure, their investors receive tax free interest payments. The PACE Tax Benefits Act will ensure that energy efficiency projects are treated in the same manner—allowing state and local governments to raise adequate capital and providing the low cost financing to property owners that will make PACE programs more widespread.

This is an innovative and cost-free mechanism to encourage energy efficiency. The potential for economic growth and energy savings is vast if we establish a framework that allows for them to expand more broadly. By doing so, we will create thousands of new jobs; save billions of dollars in energy costs for consumers; and make significant progress in our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

HONORING JAMES POPPELREITER

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor James Poppelreiter, Fire Chief of West Bloomfield Township, for his 44 years of dedicated service to the safety and well-being of his community and its citizens.

Since beginning his career as a sergeant with the department in November 1965, Chief Poppelreiter has served West Bloomfield Township with the distinction, valor, and tenacity that have been essential in creating this vibrant and diverse suburban metropolis. In recognition of his 35 years of outstanding work and leadership with the West Bloomfield Fire Department and the greater community, Chief Poppelreiter was bestowed his current responsibilities as Chief in April 2000. Chief Poppelreiter's ascent to one of the top public safety offices in the township was a product of decades of perseverance and strong work ethic.

Chief Poppelreiter's career spans a transcendent period for the West Bloomfield community. At the start of Chief Poppelreiter's career the West Bloomfield Fire Department was a small volunteer force serving a mere 14,000 residents in a rural hamlet of Oakland County. The township has since grown to over 66,000 residents and is one of southeast Michigan's